

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-6 and 9-19 have been amended, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled and claims 20-22 have been added. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification at, for example, original claim 8 and intervening claim 7, and page 7, lines 11-13. Support for new claims 20-22 can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 7b and 8b. Claims 1-6 and 9-19 have been amended for consistency. No new matter is added.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the disclosure due to informalities. Page 1 has been replaced with an amended page 1 to obviate the objection. The Brief Description of the Drawings have also been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action objects to the limitation "substantially invisible to the naked eye, at least when viewed in a predetermined range," as recited in claim 1. Independent claim 1 has been amended deleting the above limitation and incorporating the subject matter of claim 8 and intervening claim 7, which recites "substantially non-transparent areas have an extent that

is less than 1 mm in at least one direction in the plane of said surface." Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,892,011 to Walker et al. (Walker). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a solar cell comprising an optical element having both transparent areas and substantially non-transparent areas disposed along a surface of the optical element. The applied reference fails to teach or render obvious the recited feature.

Walker discloses a plastic fiber optic block material in which a number of optical fibers are arranged in a one-dimensional array or a two-dimensional array suitable for image transmission. This structure of Walker is very different from the optical element of the present application.

The present application relates to a solar cell comprising an optical element. On the other hand, Walker does not disclose a solar cell. Thus, Walker fails to teach or suggest a solar cell comprising an optical element having both transparent areas and substantially non-transparent areas disposed along a surface of the optical element.

The dependent claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

VI. New Claims 20-22 are Patentable

New claims 20-22 are patentable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claim 1 and the additional features they recite.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 9-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 6, 2009

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